

REMARKS

Claims 16-17, 20-27 remain in this application. Claims 1-15 and 18-19 have now been canceled, and new claim 28 is added above. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

The term "impact plate" is eliminated from the claims by way of the amendments set forth above, and the objection to the drawings is moot.

Independent claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), along with the remaining, dependent claims, as unpatentable over the Nakane et al. and Cziptschirsch et al. documents, both of record. Reconsideration is requested.

As amended, claim 16 requires the motor vehicle seat claimed to include a curved connection element having a radius and alignment relative to the seat back support selected so that, independent of how much the seat back is inclined to the front or rear, the substantially flat surface of the head support is located forward in relation to the element aligned in the seat back. Referring by way of example only to Figures 1 and 3 of the present application and the associated description, a connection element 6, a seat back support 13, and a flat surface 9, arranged as claimed, are shown and described. Attention is also directed, in particular, to the discussion of auxiliary lines a and b provided in paragraph 0033. The limitations in claim 16 identified are not disclosed or suggested by either of the documents relied on, and these documents, considered together, fail to suggest the invention now claimed.

It is respectfully submitted that claim 16 above is patentable for reasons discussed. All other claims in this application are dependent claims and should be patentable as well.

If there are any questions regarding this Reply or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an extension of time sufficient to effect a timely response. Please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket # 095309.56078US).

Respectfully submitted,

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